

BURR OAK WOODS CONSERVATION NATURE CENTER is located one mile north of I-70 on Hwy 7, one mile west on Park Road. The Nature Center is open Monday through Saturday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and noon to 5:00 p.m. on Sundays. **Area Hours: During Day Light Savings 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.** No pets are allowed. There is no admission fee. **Phone: 816-228-3766 TDD: 816-655-6268**

PRSR.TSTD.
US POSTAGE PAID
JEFFERSON CITY MO
PERMIT 274

Friday, September 1, 2006
7:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Music in the Woods

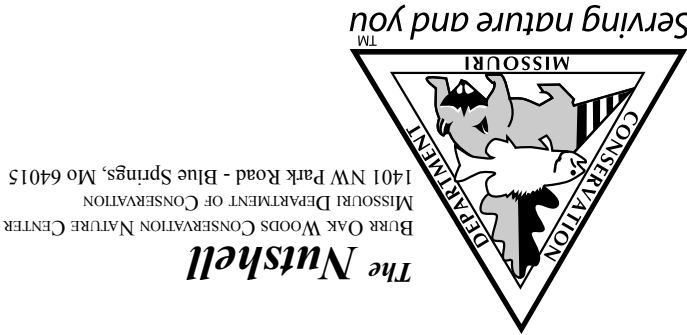
Spirit of Independence Concert Band

Begin your Holiday weekend with this wonderful free concert in the woods! Bring your guests and your blanket or lawn chair for an evening of brass band pleasure. Beginning its tenth season, the Spirit of Independence Concert Band has 50 regular performers. We'll be sitting in the open air enjoying the breeze and the tunes. No registration required.

Friday, September 15, 2006
6:00 - 9:00 p.m.

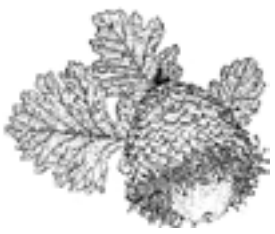
Friday Night Live

Night Flyers



Burr Oak Woods Conservation Nature Center
Missouri Department of Conservation
1401 NW Park Road - Blue Springs, Mo 64015

The Nutshell



The Nutshell

Burr Oak Woods Conservation Nature Center Newsletter

Volume 20 August 2006 Number 08



Serving nature and you

“Play” Leads to “Hey?”

– The Importance of Environmental Education

“In every walk with nature one receives far more than he seeks.”
John Muir

Did you ever make a mud-pie for your mom or see if you could pick honey bees off dandelions or have a toad pee on your hand and wonder if you'll get warts. I did.

Last month, the article on the front page of the Nutshell focused on the importance of allowing children to play in nature. As the article pointed out, many of those opportunities are limited today because of the fear of “strangers, traffic, mosquitoes and ticks...” or the greater interest in television, computers or video games.

As parents we need to promote the interest and curiosity of nature and the outdoors. How many times have you said ‘don’t get dirty or muddy’ or don’t touch that’ while your kids were just trying to explore the outdoors. I know I am guilty of it, but I am trying to change my ways. What I do understand is that when a child is given the chance to investigate, play or check out something the opportunity to spark questions will naturally occur. These questions lead to the knowledge and awareness. Knowledge leads to care and respect.

The questions that your children and you have about nature can be answered through environmental education and interpretation. There are many governmental programs and nonprofit groups (ie. The Nature Conservancy) that promote environmental education on specific issues. Some states recognize the importance and have Environmental Education Boards to help guide the state at the public, the school and business level.

In Missouri, the Department of Conservation (MDC) supports many programs to help educate the public. First, you have the opportunity to visit local Nature Centers and the Discovery Center as places that offer Interpretative Programs. Plus MDC offers at no charge the monthly magazine *The Missouri Conservationist* to the public that has articles pertaining to our local environment. Teachers and youth leaders receive support through the Department’s Conservation Education Consultant staff that help develop environmental curriculum, and maintains a plethora of material that includes posters, handouts and packets on our local



environment. Landowners can receive advice on how to manage their acreage for wildlife through MDC’s Private Land Specialist. Businesses and communities can receive guidance through various specialists that include our Foresters, Fisheries Biologist, Urban Watershed Conservationist and Urban Wildlife Biologist to deal with local environmental questions. The Missouri Department of Conservation is dedicated to the education of its local citizens and the programs are free of charge.

The benefits of Environmental Education are far reaching for our children (and adults) beyond the knowledge of waste management or plants that live on a prairie. Because it requires the child to use problem solving which involves a multidisciplinary process (the use of reading, writing, math...), and it allows the child to relate classroom lessons to the real world.

If your child’s school does not have an environmental program or even if they do you can supplement their education and yours by coming out to Burr Oak Woods or any natural area. By participating in the programs we offer, and exploring the outdoors the experience should bring about questions and hopefully some answers too. In turn, the greater goal is the respect the environment needs.

It is well known that human populations are growing and that growth is leading to greater pressures on our natural resources and habitats. One day our children will be in charge of making decisions that will affect the health and well-being of our environment and the earth. Environmental Education allows people to gain an understanding of how their individual actions affect the environment. People then acquire skills that they can use to weigh various sides of issues, and become better equipped to make informed decisions. We want our kids to know how to think, not what to think. Environmental Education does that.

So when an opportunity for outdoor play arises it might involve muddy, creepy, slimy things but it might ignite a greater interest in the natural world. Your child might be the next E. O. Wilson (entomologist – studied ants, naturalist, environmentalist, credited with the term biodiversity), or you just might get a lovely mud pie.

Kathleen Savaiano

Here at Burr Oak Woods, we focus on educating our visitors on the environment through interpretation. Next month read why we use interpretation to reach the goals of environmental education.

“In the final analysis, people protect only what they love.”
Jacques Cousteau

Helping Missourians connect with nature and conserve it, too!

August Programs

PROGRAM REGISTRATION

Please call 816-228-3766 (TDD 816-655-6268) **ON OR AFTER THE FIRST OF THE MONTH** to register for the free programs listed. It is important to arrive five minutes before the program time. If you have to cancel, please call as soon as possible so someone on the waiting list can attend.

5 Saturday, 10:00 – 11:00 a.m.

A Snake's Tale

All Ages

Myth or fact – Snakes are slimy and always move in pairs. Myth or fact – A snake can open its jaw 150 degrees. Join a naturalist as we dispel myths and learn some new facts about these misunderstood creatures. We will explore the life and habits of Missouri snakes while getting up close and personal with the real thing. No registration required.

6 Sunday, 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

Underground Adventures:

An Introduction to Caving

All Ages

Missouri is home to over 5,700 caves. So, beat the August heat and join us for a cool caving program! Learn how cavers dress for the underground and study the critters and formations they find. Then help us explore Missouri's only indoor cave. Please call to register.



12 Saturday, 10:00 – 11:00 a.m.

Rockin' & Readin' Nature Tales

Ages 2 and up

Join us for a story hour as we lead you on fantastic nature adventures! We will meet butterflies, birds, mammals, and all sorts of magnificent creatures! We will cross rivers, discover mysteries within the forest, and fly across the prairies. We are only limited by our imagination. Your child(ren) will not want to miss these stories of exploration and discovery. No registration required.

15 Tuesday, 8:00 – 9:30 a.m.

Bird Watchers

Adults only (20 and up)

Many birds begin migrating this month including hummingbirds and warblers.

Join us as we head for the trails in search of permanent residents and transient birds. Who knows what we'll find! Bring your binoculars if you have them or borrow a pair of ours. Please call to register.



19 Saturday, 10:00 – 11:00 a.m.

Babes in the Woods:

Wonderful Water

Ages Infants – 2

It is hot and staying inside with your infant or toddler seems like the thing to do. There are things that you can do, that will get you and your child outside and let you keep cool at the same time. Join us as we share water ideas and take a walk on one of our trails. Bring a stroller and dress cool! Please call to register.



20 Sunday, 1:00 – 2:00 p.m.

Spiders, Snakes and Bats, Oh My!

Ages 6 and up

Does the mere mention of spiders or snakes make your skin crawl? You are not alone! During this class we will look at these and other scary animals and plants. Maybe, when we are finished, you will look at them with less apprehension. You may even find that you are glad that they are a part of your environment! Please call to register.

22 Tuesday, 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. or

1:00 – 2:00 p.m.

Little Acorns: Wiggly Worms

Ages 3 – 6

We have all seen them, those slimy wiggly worms on the sidewalks, grass, or dirt. But do you know what worms can do for you? We will be "uncovering" the mystery of a worm's life and learning how to compost with some of our slimy friends. Please bring a plastic tub container (preferably 10 inches deep) with a tight fitting lid to make your own compost kit to take home! Please call to register.

24 Thursday, 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. or

1:00 – 2:00 p.m.

Little Acorns: Wiggly Worms

Ages 3 – 6

We have all seen them, those slimy wiggly worms on the sidewalks, grass, or dirt. But do you know what worms can do for you? We will be "uncovering" the mystery of a worm's life and learning how to compost with some of our slimy friends. Please bring a plastic tub container (preferably 10 inches deep) with a tight fitting lid to make your own compost kit to take home! Please call to register.

26 Saturday, 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.

Women's Only: Scavenger Hunt

Women only (20 and up)

Come and join the fun in the art of letterboxing! We will be making our own rubber stamps and journal, learn a new skill in using a map and a compass, and crack some animal clues. Then we will go on a scavenger hunt in search for several Burr Oak Woods' own wildlife letterboxes! Please call to register.

26 Saturday, 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

Prairie

Families

Emerging and changing since our last glacier retreat, the prairie is a unique habitat of North America.

Come and learn what makes it so special. We will talk about the plants and animals that inhabit the prairie, and their special adaptations that allow them to live there. We will hike, so please dress appropriately for the weather. Please call to register.



27 Sunday, 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

Missouri Conservation Frontiers:

Trees and Me

Families

Trees can tell us a story about the land - how it was and is. Come and learn the unique physiology of trees. We will then learn to use a tree key and key out five common Missouri trees. Participants will do leaf and bark rubbings. Then we will hike for a hands-on chance to identify ten Missouri trees with our field guides. Please call to register.



29 Tuesday, 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. or

1:00 – 2:00 p.m.

Little Acorns: Wiggly Worms

Ages 3 – 6

We have all seen them, those slimy wiggly worms on the sidewalks, grass, or dirt. But do you know what worms can do for you? We will be "uncovering" the mystery of a worm's life and learning how to compost with some of our slimy friends. Please bring a plastic tub container (preferably 10 inches deep) with a tight fitting lid to make your own compost kit to take home! Please call to register.



October 21, 2006



Women in the Outdoors

in cooperation with The Wild Turkey Federation, South River Gobblers Chapter

The kids are back in school and you are ready for a break. Did you ever wish you knew how to fish, safely shoot a gun, or canoe down one of Missouri's Ozark streams? How about cook over a campfire with a dutch oven, take great nature photographs, or learn the new adventure of letterboxing. It this sounds interesting to you, plus lots more, this is the all day adventure just for you!

Bring a friend to make this a special day the two of you can share together. We have enthusiastic, patient instructors who are skilled at teaching beginners and a little more advanced who want to tweak their skills. This day is for everyone! You won't want to miss it! Call 816/228-3766 for a Registration Form or for more information.

7:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Optional Wild Game Dinner 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Registration:

Early bird: \$45

(Postmarked by September 1)

Registering with a friend: \$5.00 off

Regular Registration: \$50

(Postmarked by October 1)

Late Registration: \$55

(Postmarked after October 1)

Natural Happenings

•Be sure to keep those hummingbird feeders full. Fall migration is beginning for our smallest feathered friends.



•Male white-tailed deer are rubbing the velvet off their antlers. You may see rubs on small trees.

•Wild Edibles: Wild grapes and elderberries should be ripe this month.

•Baby snapping turtles are hatching from their eggs this month.

•Bird Watchers: Fall warbler migration gets underway this month and continues through September.

•Badgers are more active during the day due for their breeding season.



**AUGUST PROGRAMS AT
LAKE CITY RANGE**

28900 E Argo Road

Grain Valley, Mo 64029

816-229-4448

www.mdc.state.mo/areas/ranges/lakecity

We are pleased to let people know about several of the programs offered by the Missouri Department of Conservation's Lake City Range. Be sure to call **816-229-4448** for information and to register for these programs.

4 Friday, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Youth Air Rifle

5 Saturday, 8:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Bowhunter Education

6 Sunday, 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.

Family Trap Shooting

10 Thursday, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Beginning Archery Hunting

17 Thursday, 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

Repairing Archery Arrows

19 Saturday, 8:00 – 11:30 a.m.

Ladies' Firearm Safety Ph,I

26 Saturday, 9:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Cable Restraint

For more information call us at 816-228-3766 or visit our web site at burroakwoods.org